

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (EHSRC)

MINUTES

Monday April 2, 2012

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) Annual Educational Symposium
Hyatt Regency – Capitol Park, Ventura Room
Sacramento, CA

Members Present:

Ms. Terri Williams, Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), California Conference of Directors of Environment Health (CCDEH) Chair

Dean D. Peterson, PE, REHS, newly appointed California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH)

Mr. Todd Frantz, REHS, Secretary, Private Sector Representative

Ms. LeAnh Irish, REHS, newly appointed (CEHA) Representative

Ms. Sarah Crossman, REHS, newly appointed Public Sector Member at Large

Ms. Catherine Caldwell, MS, Senate Rules Committee Appointee

Dr. Lal Mian, Ph.D., REHS, California State University (CSU) San Bernardino, University Representative

Dr. Antonio Machado, Ph.D., REHS, CSU Northridge, University Representative

Mr. Kelvin Yamada, Chief, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Environmental Management Branch, Executive Officer

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present:

Ms. Robin Belle Hook, REHS, CDPH Environmental Health Services Section Chief

Ms. Veronica Malloy, CDPH REHS, Program Administrator

Guests

Dr. Thomas Hatfield, REHS, CSU, Northridge

Doug Turner, REHS, CPS HR Consulting

Eliza de la Cruz, CPS HR Consulting

Members Absent

Dr. Dean Kelaita, M.D., Health Officer, Calaveras County, California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO)

Election of 2011-2012 Officers

Dr. Machado nominated Mr. Frantz to continue in the position of EHSRC Secretary. Dr. Mian seconded, Mr. Frantz accepted. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Machado nominated Ms. Williams to continue as committee EHSRC Chair. Mr. Peterson seconded, Ms. Williams accepted. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 18, 2011 Meeting

Ms. Williams opened the meeting at 10:02 am and introduced the newly appointed committee members and guests. Mr. Dean Peterson is the Director of Environmental Health for San Mateo County. He was appointed to the EHSRC by CCDEH to serve the remainder of a second year term to expire January 1, 2014. Ms. Sarah Crossman works in the Riverside County Environmental Health Department as the county REHS Training Coordinator. She is the Public Sector Representative and will serve a 4 year term to expire January 1, 2016. Ms.

LeAnh Irish works with the County of San Diego in the Food and Housing Division. She was appointed by CEHA and will serve a four year term to expire January 1, 2016. Mr. Doug Turner joined the meeting as a guest. Mr. Turner worked with CDPH Environmental Management as the REHS Program Administrator until his retirement in 2001. Ms. Eliza de la Cruz is employed by CPS HR Consulting. She evaluates all the college transcripts for new REHS applicants to ensure adherence to the educational requirements of the program. Ms. Williams welcomed all guests and new committee members and thanked all the members for their attendance.

Dr. Machado moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Frantz seconded, Ms. Irish, Mr. Peterson and Ms. Crossman abstained. The September 13, 2011 minutes were approved.

CDPH Environmental Management Branch Update

Kelvin Yamada, Executive Officer

Mr. Yamada introduced himself as a 1981 graduate of CSU, Northridge in the REHS approved environmental health program. He will make every effort to take the REHS exam by next year. The Senate Hearing to confirm Dr. Ron Chapman as the Director of CDPH was held last week. The final confirmation is expected in the next month.

Mr. Yamada announced the appointment of Ms. Hook to the position of Chief of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Financing Section effective April 1, 2012. All committee members extended their congratulations to Ms. Hook.

Update Continuing Education and Accreditation Agencies

Robin Belle Hook, Chief Environmental Health Services Section

Ms. Hook explained that this was the first cycle for the REHS program to receive proof of continuing education as part of the REHS biennial renewals. Since July 2011, Ms. Malloy and Ms. Deann Kanenaga have been sending out email blasts to announce new continuing education offerings. Ms. Malloy mentioned that the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) has a free online program called E-learning which helped all the REHSs get their 24 units at the last minute. The program was concerned when registration payments were being submitted without the proper continuing education (CE) contact hours. Ms. Hook explained the payments were returned to the applicants if the applicant made the decision not to obtain the contact hours required for the biennial registration. The new CE requirement may be one of the reasons why the REHS program revenue has diminished from past levels. The program is hoping to change that with the influx of new applicants and an early effort to collect some of the late renewal payments from suspended candidates.

The REHS program continues to hold frequent conference calls for accreditation agency auditing purposes. For many counties who hold staff meetings, they need to be aware that some hours may not count toward CE contact hours. The REHS program is looking to achieve consistency among all accreditation agencies. The challenge is to get the word out that not all agencies are accredited with CDPH. Dr. Mian suggested reaching out to the Society of Ecology for possible accreditation. Dr. Hatfield mentioned his attempt at cultivating contact hours for individuals seemed too costly to pursue. Dr. Machado offered to review coursework from any organization who would like to use their accreditation and offer it to REHSs for CE credit. Ms. Crossman mentioned that she has multiple certifications and that it is helpful to have those credits count also toward the required credits for REHS contact hours.

Ms. Hook said that it is possible for the contact hours to count for multiple certifications as long as they have been approved by a REHS approved accrediting agency. She explained that the accreditation agency review process starts with the completion of a self audit form which is then followed by an onsite interview or a conference call. The program is intending to go to the NEHA San Diego conference and to visit the San Diego County environmental health department to conduct two onsite audits in September. Ms. Williams commended the program for keeping communication open to all individuals.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Williams would like the program to inquire from other accreditation agencies and would like to know the tracking software that many counties and agencies are using.

University Self Survey Review: Loma Linda University and CSU Northridge

Ms. Malloy explained university self surveys are submitted by our approved schools and are updated every 10 years, with a site review every 6 years and a curriculum review every 3 years. Mr. Turner mentioned two subcommittees that are part of the EHSRC. Reading from the EHSRC manual, Ms. Caldwell added that the Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee and the Registration Process subcommittee are the two that need to be formed.

Mr. Turner added the Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee typically meets quite often to decide if any class or coursework from the approved schools or distance learning courses meets the educational standard of the REHS program. He added the members of this Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee may be part of the site review committee. Ms. Caldwell added that this subcommittee should not need a quorum if most of their decisions can be made by conference call or email communication and does not require travel. Ms. Williams proceeded to ask for volunteers for the site review committee and members for these two EHSRC subcommittees. It was decided that the Northridge site review committee members are Dr. Mian, Ms. Malloy and Ms. Irish. The Loma Linda site review committee members are Dr. Machado, Mr. Frantz and Ms. Malloy. The Educational and Professional Standards committee members include Dr. Machado, Dr. Mian, Ms. Crossman and Ms. Malloy. Dr. Mian nominated Dr. Machado as the chair of the Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee; Ms. Williams seconded; all approved. After the list of coursework was discussed, Ms. Williams proceeded to ask for volunteers for the Registration Process subcommittee. The members are Mr. Peterson, Ms. Caldwell, Ms. Williams, Ms. Irish, Ms. Crossman and Ms. Malloy. Mr. Peterson moved to establish the subcommittee; Ms. Caldwell seconded, and all approved. A chair has yet to be appointed.

ACTION ITEM: The Registration Process subcommittee must appoint a chair. Ms. Williams would like the Registration Process subcommittee to formalize the complaint hearing process.

Distance Learning and University Course Review

With the earlier decision to form the Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee, Ms. Williams asked whether the courses listed on the agenda needed immediate approval. Ms. Malloy explained a number of students are currently enrolled or had completed the courses and would be awaiting EHSRC's decisions. The committee members were presented with five course syllabi for possible distance learning courses, an appeal for review of a Public Health Microbiology course from the University of California (UC) Riverside, 6 course descriptions from CSU Sacramento for possible science credit and one course description from UC Davis Extension. The following is the list of all courses and the committee's decisions:

*Applied Physics, 201 and 202, TUI University: Dr. Machado moved to approve the lecture portion for Options I through IV, Mr. Frantz seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the course was approved.

*College Algebra (Math 110), BYU: Dr. Machado moved to approve, Mr. Frantz seconded, Ms. Crossman abstained, and the course was approved.

*Bio 100-101, *BYU*: Dr. Machado moved to disapprove, Mr. Frantz seconded, all were in favor, course was denied.

*Public Health Microbiology Lecture 141, UC Riverside, Dr. Mian moved to approve for elective science credit only, for Options III through V, Mr. Frantz seconded, all were in favor, course was approved.

*ENVS 10, ENV 111, ENVS 112, ENVS 120, ENVS 121, ENVS190A, CSU Sacramento: Dr. Machado moved to approve ENVS 120 for elective credit only for Options III and IV only, Dr. Mian seconded, all were in favor, course was approved. Dr. Machado moved to disapprove all other courses, Ms. Crossman seconded, all were in favor, and the courses were not approved. *Introduction to Public Health, UC Davis Extension: Ms. Williams sent this course review to the newly formed Educational and Professions Standards subcommittee for discussion and decision.

ACTION ITEM: The Educational and Professions Standards subcommittee will review the syllabus for the UC Davis Extension, Introduction to Public Health for possible approval.

Discussion Items

Ms. Williams suggested that the new application language proposal and the discussion on Option V exam entry requirements be forwarded to the Registration Process subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: The Registration Process subcommittee shall review the new application language proposal and review the exam entry requirements for Option V candidates.

The next meeting will be held at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division located at 5050 Commerce Dr. Baldwin Park on August 22, 2012 from 10 am until 1 pm.

ADJOURN

Dr. Mian moved Ms. Crossman seconded, no one opposed and the meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.